

**VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES**

**I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:**

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in Title IV of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998; 34 CFR 361.48; 361.5; 361.53; and 361.54.

**II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:**

The Office of Rehabilitation Services provides services which are appropriate to the vocational rehabilitation needs of each eligible individual, when available. The ORS will provide services in a timely manner without any undue delays or interruption.

Vocational rehabilitation services are any goods or services necessary to assist a person with a disability in preparing for, securing, retaining or retaining an employment outcome that is consistent with the individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice. "Vocational rehabilitation services are those services, which, provided in the context of the counseling relationship, collectively and significantly contribute to the achievement of an employment outcome consistent with the informed choice of the individual. Additionally, there needs to be documentation that demonstrates that services provided under the individual's IPE contributed to the achievement of the employment outcome.

They include, but are not limited to:

1. Assessment for determining eligibility and priority of services (Section 115.2);
2. Assessment for determining vocational rehabilitation needs, including, if appropriate, an assessment by personnel skilled in rehabilitation technology in accordance with the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) (Section 115.3);
3. Counseling and guidance, including personal adjustment counseling and information and support services to assist an individual in exercising informed choice;
4. Referral and other services necessary to help applicants and eligible individuals secure needed services from other agencies, including components of the Statewide Workforce Investment System, and to advise those individuals about the client assistance program;
5. Physical and mental restoration services (Section 115.35);
6. Vocational and other training services, including personal and vocational adjustment, books, tools, and other training materials, except that no training or training services

in institutions of higher education may be reimbursed by ORS unless maximum efforts have been made by the state Vocational Rehabilitation agency to secure grant assistance in whole or in part from other sources (Section 115.28);

7. Maintenance for those living expenses, such as food, shelter, clothing, and other subsistence items that are in excess of the normal subsistence expenses necessary for the individual's participation in a vocational rehabilitation program (Section 115.36);
8. Transportation in connection with the provision of any vocational rehabilitation services. Transportation services may be authorized on a temporary basis while other planned services are occurring. As a supportive service, transportation cannot be used to transport an individual for employment purposes on a permanent basis. Services may be authorized during an initial adjustment period while other arrangements for transportation are being made (Section 115.21);
9. Vocational rehabilitation services to family members of an applicant or eligible individual if necessary to that individual's employment outcome;
10. Interpreter services including sign language and oral interpretation services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and tactile interpreting services for individuals who are deaf/blind provided by qualified personnel;
11. Reader services, rehabilitation teaching services, and orientation and mobility services for individuals who are blind;
12. Technical assistance and other consultation services for those who are pursuing self-employment as an employment outcome;
13. Job search and placement assistance and job retention services;
14. Supported employment services (Section 115.14);
15. Personal assistance services, in connection with the provision of any vocational rehabilitation services, including training in managing, supervising, and directing personal assistants (Section 115.31);
16. Post-employment services necessary to maintain, regain, or advance in employment consistent with the individual's abilities, capabilities, and interests (Section 115.15);
17. Occupational licenses, tools, equipment, initial stock, and supplies (Section 115.20);
18. Rehabilitation technology, telecommunication, sensory, and other technological aids, devices, and services (Section 115.16);
19. Transition services (Section 115.38); and

20. Other goods and services determined necessary to the achievement of an employment outcome.

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